

TRIBUTE TO MR. MICHAEL ROCCIA

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to recognize an outstanding member of my community, Mr. Michael Roccia. For 63 years, he has been fighting to improve the working conditions and lives of American workers. He has spent 32 years with Local 262 in New Jersey, and has served our community well.

He was Shop Chairman for Local 305, CIO from 1940–1969. During that time he organized 500 employees of the L.S. Branch Co. for Playthings, Jewelry, and Novelty Workers, CIO Local 305. When Local 305 became Local 301, he became General Organizer, and when that merged with Local 262, he continued to work, serving as Business Agent for as many as twenty shops. He would go on to serve as Local 262's General Organizer, and eventually became their President. He has been Vice President of both the IUC and the RWDSU, and has served on the Advisory Committee of the UFCW.

Mr. Roccia has lived the life of a worker and an activist. He has labored on an assembly line, organized workers, walked the picket line, negotiated contracts, handled grievances, argued arbitrations, and fought for health and welfare plans. He has led and inspired the men and women of Local 262 in New Jersey to commit to activism, working early in the morning and late at night to improve labor conditions for all workers.

In his own words, "The work of a good trade unionist can never be a 9 to 5 job—never an 8 hour day."

I salute Mr. Roccia, the oldest officer in his Union, for his lifelong commitment to serving others. I am proud to have him in my district, and I am honored to call him my neighbor.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending my thanks to Michael Roccia, and I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing him the strength to continue his good work for many years to come.

**INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO OVERTURN THE OFFICE OF
THE COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY'S
"PREEMPTION REGULATIONS"**

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, today, along with Congressman PAUL and a number of our colleagues, I am introducing legislation to overturn the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency's (OCC) "preemption regulations." These misguided, unprecedented, and unchecked pair of regulations expand federal regulatory authority by preempting state consumer protection laws. The OCC regulations exceed the limited preemption authority granted the agency by Congress. Our legislation will stop the OCC from eroding strong safeguards that have been used by the states for more than a century to enforce consumer protection laws.

The Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. 801) provides a mechanism for Congress to review and nullify regulations and prohibit the agency from promulgating substantially similar regulations—without changing the underlying statute. In this case, each Congressional Review Act resolution—one for each rule—will function like a "referendum" on an OCC rule. Similar legislation was introduced in the Senate before the recess.

Last week, in testimony before the Senate Banking Committee, Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan expressed concern about the OCC's actions and their potential to undermine the dual banking system. He urged legislators to maintain an "appropriate balance" in the nation's dual system of federally and state-chartered banks. I would hope that my colleagues would join our effort to accomplish that balance by overturning these misguided rules.

**HONORING MR. TERENCE R.
WILLIAMS**

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Terence R. Williams, winner of the Missouri 2004 Voice of Democracy Broadcast Scriptwriting Contest sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Ladies Auxiliary.

Mr. Williams is a junior at the Gateway Institute of Technology High School located in St. Louis, MO. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Terry Williams. He plans a career in journalism and public speaking. Terence was sponsored by VFW Post 8888, Ladies Auxiliary in St. Louis.

Each year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary conduct a Voice of Democracy audio and essay competition designed to give high school students the opportunity to voice their opinions on their responsibility to our country. This year, more than 80,000 secondary school students competed for the 59 national scholarships. The contest theme for this year was "My Commitment to America's Future."

I want to commend Mr. Williams on receiving this prestigious award, and request my colleagues to do the same. I am honored to recognize Terence R. Williams today before Congress.

Attached are excerpts from Mr. Williams' winning essay. The text of that essay is as follows:

MY COMMITMENT TO AMERICA'S FUTURE

(By Terence Williams)

I am a citizen of the world. I am a citizen of this country. I am a citizen. Citizen, is a word often entangled in "rights" and "freedom," but never discussed are responsibilities, obligations, and commitments. It is because of this very reason, I can improve society. My society. Not by well-planned inventions, or even to strive to be better than the average "Joe." My plan does not call for elaborate thought or constant recognition. It is indwelt in a commitment not only to my country but to myself. It is a commitment to America's future.

We live in an age of moral decline. Any opinion, statement, ideals or theories reserve the right to be challenged. Therefore, it is

imperative to establish firm foundations for every basis in which we believe. To fulfill my commitment every perception, every elementary thought must be broken to one foundation: Excellence without Excuses. By implementing this logic into society, a fraction of my commitment will aim fellow citizens toward success.

Because many are bombarded by overwhelming stereotypes and influences from negative media sources, I cannot let my responsibility of honesty fail me. My commitment to encourage my community must be even stronger. My support for those younger than me can increase their self-esteem. I can instill an ethic that is missing to their time. My dreams may become their visions. In that way, they will not fall victim to the ever changing plagues that try to destroy our nations unity. I will be an invisible thread that holds together the links of the young and old, the strong and weak, the sheep and lion. But, I can't do it alone. To be a man of success is to not forget the people around you.

The utmost important commitment to my country's future is to instill unity at all cost. We are in this thing together. Lest we forget, we are the future. We are the individuals who create history everyday just by waking up. However, I can't neglect my commitment because of the people around me. I have a vision. And without a vision the people will perish.

A vision that can join us on a common bond. This is our hope. Everyday someone steps up and realizes his dream. They focus their attention and say I want to be just like him or her. That is why my impact will not shatter the world to my surprises. My commitment is to stay committed to the every growing success of my nation. So why don't we start now, let us begin. I shall pursue excellence without excuses, shall you?

**ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE
BIRTH OF JAMES MONROE,
FIFTH PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today, April 28th, the Commonwealth of Virginia celebrates the birthday of James Monroe, who served as the fifth President of the United States from 1817 to 1825.

James Monroe was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia to Spence Monroe and Eliza Jones Monroe on April 28, 1758.

As a student of law at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, where he studied under the tutelage of Thomas Jefferson, a young James Monroe decided to join the Continental Army and was soon fighting at the side of George Washington in New York. Lieutenant Colonel Monroe earned recognition from General Washington as "a brave and active officer." After the Revolutionary War, Monroe was appointed Military Commissioner of Virginia.

After a distinguished military career and completion of his legal studies, Monroe was elected to the Continental Congress in 1783, where he avidly fought to promote a bill of rights. It was at this time that he met and married Elizabeth Kortright.

In 1790, Monroe was elected to represent the Commonwealth of Virginia as a U.S. Senator, followed by an appointment to serve as the U.S. Minister to France from 1794 to 1796.